



CONGRESSMAN JIM SENSENBRENNER NEWS FROM CONGRESS

NUMBER 159 -- JUNE 2002

House Issues Stamp of Approval for INS Bill

I've always made it a priority to listen to constituents, hear what they have to say, and deliver their message by representing them as best as possible in Congress. One of the most effective ways to do this is by holding office hours and town hall meetings every year. I schedule them all over the district so that constituents can visit and tell me what's on their minds. Over the last several years, I have heard an increasing number of complaints about the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), ranging from a constituent wanting help in adopting a child, to someone who came to the country legally to start a new life. The gist of the complaints has been about the many roadblocks from an agency that is supposed to help the people who are in legitimate need of it.



Representative Sensenbrenner and US Attorney General John Ashcroft at a Press Conference, as the Attorney General announces the Administration's endorsement of H.R. 3231.

As a public official, it has always been a privilege to help constituents get answers by cutting through the INS's bureaucracy, and the more I got involved in people's lives, the more I understood how much work needed to be done to fix the INS. Consequently, as a result of these

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House Saves an Endangered Species - the Tax Cut!

Last year, Congress succeeded in passing long-overdue tax relief, and already some Members of Congress want to take it away. When the tax relief package became law, millions of Americans benefited immediately by receiving income tax rebates worth as much as \$600. This law also included other tax relief measures that many people realized when they prepared their tax returns this year, and saw the 'tax-man' get a little bit less of their hard-earned money.

However, Democrats opposed to tax relief used a technical rule in the Senate to include language in the law that will force these tax cuts to expire on December 31, 2010. To address this issue by making this tax relief permanent, the House, on April 18, **with my strong support**, passed H.R. 586, the Tax Relief Guarantee Act of 2002.

This bill makes sense. It is hard to believe that anyone filing taxes over the next several years would want to return to last year's higher tax levels. If H.R. 586 doesn't become law, people who file their taxes in 2011 will lose the lower individual tax rate reduction, and will pay more in taxes because of the higher tax rate. Families with children will be hard hit when the \$1,000 child credit falls back to \$500, and education IRA contribution limits drop from \$2,000 to \$500 – even as college costs continue to escalate. Hard working employees paying into their retirement fund will be set back when their IRA annual contribution limit is cut from \$5,000 to \$2,000. The resurrection of the death tax will once again add a costly burden to survivors who, even as they mourn the loss of their loved ones, will have to respond to the federal

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House Issues Stamp of Approval for INS Bill

conversations with constituents, and investigating the effectiveness and responsiveness of the INS, last year, I introduced H.R. 3231, a bill to restructure the agency.

Although the House Judiciary Committee had considered various proposals to improve the INS over the years, by the time I became Chairman of the Committee, the situation at INS had not improved. H.R. 3231 ends the INS's "mission overload" by splitting it into two separate bureaus: one to handle law enforcement, and the other to administer immigration services. To further elevate immigration issues to the level that they deserve in the Justice Department, both bureaus will be supervised by a new Associate Attorney General for Immigration Affairs.

Some say the INS stands for Ignoring National Security. It would be hard to argue with them. There are at least 8 million illegal aliens living in the United States, according to the Census Bureau. Over 300,000 criminal and deportable aliens who have been ordered removed by immigration judges have gone into hiding, and the INS doesn't have the slightest idea where they are. Some also say the INS stands for Incompetent and Negligent Service. It would be hard to argue with them too. At the end of fiscal year 2001, the agency had a backlog of almost 5 million applications and petitions, and it generally takes the INS years to adjudicate various basic applications.

Given this information, it is **beyond** time to restructure one of the worst run agencies in the federal government. This bill has been sent to the US Senate and as of the time this is written, it is still awaiting action in that body. ■

Town Hall Meetings provide me the chance to hear your views on the issues before Congress or to help you with problems you may be experiencing in dealing with a federal agency. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting nearest your home. Please contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend.

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House Saves an Endangered Species - the Tax Cut!

government knocking on their doors demanding payment.

Making the tax cuts permanent will also help the economy. With more certainty in the tax code, businesses will be able to operate more effectively by planning for the future. Getting rid of the uncertainty by making the tax cuts permanent will allow businesses to expand, which in turn will mean more jobs for Americans.

The 198 Members who voted against this bill basically sent their constituents the message that they think people aren't paying enough in taxes, and believe that the government should have more of people's hard earned money to spend. Well, I am not one of those. Let me have my own money, and let me decide how best to spend it - permanently. In passing H.R. 586, the House did the right thing. Now it is up to the Senate to follow our lead - but as with other pieces of legislation, the Senate is dragging its feet, and in the process, taxing everyone's patience as we all wait to see what the future may hold. ■

MAIL ADVISORY

Since October 12, 2001, mail to my Washington, DC office has been slowed as a result of new security measures being used to process it. What this means to you is that when you mail something to the Washington, DC office, it often takes several weeks before I actually receive your document. Consequently, responses to your letters have, and will continue to, take longer. This delay in the mail will also be a factor when you fill out the "Questionnaire Response Card" (on the next page) and mail it to me. Your responses will be tabulated and the results will be made known to you through a future Press Release - it will just take longer than usual. Your patience and cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to your responses! ■

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Sunday, June 2

7:00 p.m. Thiensville Village Hall

Sunday, June 23

7:00 p.m. Port Washington
Police Dept.

Sunday, July 7

7:00 p.m. Hartford City Hall

Sunday, July 21

7:00 p.m. West Bend City Hall

Sunday, June 9

7:00 p.m. Oconomowoc City Hall

Sunday, June 30

7:00 p.m. Delafield City Hall

Sunday, July 14

7:00 p.m. Germantown Village Hall

Sunday, July 28

7:00 p.m. Brookfield Safety
Building

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE CARD

RESPONDENT#1

YES NO

1. _____
2. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____
3. _____
4. (a)____ (b)____
5. (a)____ (b)____
6. _____
7. _____
8. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____ (d)____
9. _____
10. _____
11. (a)____ (b)____
12. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____ (d)____ (e)____ (f)____ (g)____

RESPONDENT#2

YES NO

1. _____
2. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____
3. _____
4. (a)____ (b)____
5. (a)____ (b)____
6. _____
7. _____
8. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____ (d)____
9. _____
10. _____
11. (a)____ (b)____
12. (a)____ (b)____ (c)____ (d)____ (e)____ (f)____ (g)____

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

2002 ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The 107th Congress is involved with many issues vital to you, your family, and the nation. Please take a few minutes to complete this year's questionnaire. **All questions have a YES or NO answer unless otherwise indicated. Please mark your answer by placing an "X" in the space provided.** In some cases, a YES or NO answer may seem oversimplified, but I am often left with that same choice when voting on complex legislation on the House floor. Please let me know what matters to you. Fill out the response card above, place a stamp on it, and return it to my Washington office. Thank you for your time.

1. Do you support US military action to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq?
2. Should the tax relief bill passed into law last year be (a) repealed, (b) allowed to expire in 10 years, or (c) made permanent?
3. Do you support a ban on human cloning?
4. Should the Federal Government spend (a) more or (b) less money to subsidize agricultural production in the US, such as peanuts and sugar?
5. Which of the following do you feel is the best approach to reducing gun-related crimes?
(a) Pass more federal gun laws. (b) Better enforce existing laws.
6. The House has recently passed a bill to restructure the INS and make it more efficient and accountable. Should the Senate follow suit?
7. Should Congress pass a constitutional amendment to ban desecration of the US Flag?
8. Who do you think should make most of the decisions about how to spend the education dollars taxpayers send to Washington?
(a) Congress. (b) Federal Department of Education.
(c) State Government. (d) Local school boards and schools.
9. Should Congress issue federal mandates to require private insurance companies to cover more medical conditions, even if it results in higher insurance premiums?
10. Do you support allowing individuals to invest a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes in personal retirement accounts?

11. Do you believe Amtrak should be a self-supporting entity, or should the Federal Government increase Amtrak's subsidy from its current annual amount of \$833 million?
(a) Amtrak should be a self-supporting entity. (b) Amtrak's government subsidy should be increased.
12. What county in Wisconsin do you live in?
(a) Dodge; (b) Fond du Lac; (c) Jefferson; (d) Ozaukee; (e) Sheboygan;
(f) Washington; (g) Waukesha

The Results are in... Wisconsin Loses a Seat in the House

Due to the results of the 2000 Census, this is the last newsletter that will be sent out to the Ninth District of Wisconsin.

The Census is an important exercise that residents go through every ten years to count the people in the United States. With this information, state governments across the nation are able to redraw district boundaries for elected officials, and on the federal level, determine how to split up the 435 Members of Congress into the fifty states. The federal government also uses this information for funding various federal programs.

Although Wisconsin's population grew in the last decade, it did not grow as much as in other states. Consequently, Wisconsin will lose one Member of Congress in the US House of Representatives, and as of January 3, 2003, will be represented by eight, instead of nine, Members.

Continued on page 4...

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City/State/Zip _____

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regular mailing list, check this box: ☐

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4909

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

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The Results are in...Wisconsin Loses a Seat in the House

The last time Wisconsin was represented by eight Members of Congress was back in the 1870s. Prior to that, as a result of the 1840 Census, Wisconsin was represented by as few as two Members,

and more recently, by as many as eleven in the 1900's through the 1920s.

*To write about issues
or request publications,
contact me at:*

2332 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5101

*To get help with
federal agencies,
contact me at:*

120 Bishops Way, #154
Brookfield, WI 53005
(262) 784-1111

Outside Metro Calling Area: 1-800-242-1119
E-Mail: sensen09@mail.house.gov
<http://www.house.gov/sensenbrenner/>

Regulations established by the Committee on House Administration prevent me from mailing any more newsletters to the Ninth District. So, as this is the last newsletter for this district, I would like to say that I am grateful for having had the opportunity to represent it. ■

****Please inform me if you are receiving
misdelivered or duplicate copies.***

Congressman

JIM
SENSENBRENNER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4909

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M.C.
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CONGRESS**

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